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SOURCE Hsin-hua Jih-pao.INTERVIEWS AMERICAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR

P'yongyang, 24 July (Hsin-hua) -- A Hsin-hua News Agency correspondent visited a North Korean POW camp located somewhere in North Korea on 19 July 1950 and interviewed a number of US prisoners-of-war. He reported that of the 114 US prisoners at this camp which was a former elementary schoolhouse about half were illiterate. This fact refutes the boast of the American imperialists that the US is the most cultured nation in the world.

The correspondent went on to say.

"The majority of the prisoners were US occupation troops stationed in Japan. They volunteered to remain in Japan after the last war to enjoy the life of ease promised them by the US Army. They have no desire to sacrifice their lives in any war and they would never have stayed in Japan if they knew that a war would break out in the Far East or that they would be sent to Korea to engage in a civil war. The following remark made by Captain Nugent of the Twenty-first Regiment of the 24th Division indicates an attitude typical of the greater majority of the prisoners: 'I cannot understand why we were sent to fight in this war; one hour after receiving my orders, I found myself enroute to Korea; I had no desire to come here.'

"Among them, however, there were a few who showed an arrogant attitude like Sherman, a first lieutenant in the Air Force. This lieutenant, born of a very wealthy family, never did any hard work in his life. Since he participated in a number of air raids on the cities and villages in North Korea, he was asked why he bombed the villages. He answered, 'How can I tell where the bombs will strike since the air raids were carried out during a storm and the bombs were released from a height of about 20,000 feet. I did not know where I was going at first, but since I was ordered to carry out my mission, I carried it out. If the farmers become involved in the war, it's their hard luck. If I am ordered to destroy a village, there must be a reason for such an order.'

"Regardless of how advanced the US is in the manufacture of modern weapons, it would be impossible to destroy the Korean people. It is a foregone conclusion that it would be impossible for an army of a nation to fight an effective war and yet allow its personnel to live a life of dissipation. The US military

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personnel in Japan are still permitted to dine and dance and enjoy a life of ease. The main reason why MacArthur issued an order for all US personnel in Korea to defend their positions with their lives arises from the fact that the US Army was unprepared. He impressed on the troops the fact that if they were captured, they would be tortured to death. On the contrary, these prisoners are being given the very best of treatment. This can be verified by quoting Hamilton, a former member of the US 34th Regiment of the 24th Division: "We do not want to kill the Korean people; we should have withdrawn a long time ago. We are being given the best of treatment. A doctor visits us twice a day. If MacArthur thinks that we were tortured to death, he is greatly mistaken."

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